

Business Essentials for State Taxpayers (B.E.S.T.)

Operating a Business in Alabama: Withholding Taxes

Rev. 08/26/2021



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B.E.S.T. Webinar Series Housekeeping Reminders



Everyone's lines are muted when entering the meeting. This is to prevent background noises from interrupting the presentation. Only the host is able to unmute someone.



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If you would like to ask a question about the presentation, please use the Q&A box to send a question to <u>the presenter</u> or a panelist. They will respond to your question(s) either during the presentation or at the end of the presentation.



At the end of the meeting, there will be a survey with (9) evaluation questions about the presentation. Your feedback is important to us, so please complete the survey after the webinar.



The information in this presentation is intended to be an overview. It is not a comprehensive explanation of all aspects of the subject matter, does not represent legal advice, and is not legally binding on the Department. Information regarding taxes and tax administration changes frequently and should always be confirmed through a tax professional.

Please refer to the Alabama Department of Revenue website at revenue.alabama.gov for additional information.





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Purpose of this Webinar:

To inform Alabama business taxpayers of:

- Who is required to withhold Alabama Income Tax
- How to determine whether a person is an employee or an independent contractor
- Federal and State Withholding Exemption Taxes
- How to report Federal and State Withholding and related forms
- Other Payroll-Related Taxes
- Helpful links on ALDOR's website





Who is Required to Withhold Alabama Income Tax?





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- Employers with employees working in the State of Alabama who are not independent contractors.
- Alabama employers, with Alabama residents working outside the State of Alabama, will need to withhold Alabama income tax on those residents unless they are withholding tax for the state in which the employee is working.
- Employers, who are residents of Alabama, are required to withhold taxes from wages of their employees who are not residents of Alabama <u>only</u> to the extent that the wages are **earned in Alabama**.
- Nonresident employers are required to withhold Alabama income tax on wages earned in Alabama.





How to Determine Whether a Person is an Employee or an Independent Contractor





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Employee vs. Independent Contractor

- Alabama uses the Federal classification determination to define the relationship between a business and an employee or an independent contractor. (See Federal Form SS-8 Determination of Worker Status for Purposes of Federal Employment Taxes and Income Tax Withholding.)
- An employee cannot claim to be an independent contractor for Alabama purposes and therefore exempt from Alabama withholding tax, unless he has met the Federal guidelines for being an independent contractor.
- Refer to IRS Publication 15-A, *Employer's Supplemental Tax Guide* at https://www.irs.gov/.





Employee vs. Independent Contractor Three Common Law Factors

Employee	Independent Contractor
☐ Behavioral Control	☐ Behavioral Control
✓ Controls when, where, and how the work is done	✓ Plan their own hours
✓ Training	✓ Qualified
☐ Financial Control	☐ Financial Control
✓ No profit motive	✓ Profit motive
✓ Paid wages by the hour, week or month	✓ Paid a predetermined amount
□ Relationship	□ Relationship
✓ Employee type benefits	✓ Will have a written contract
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Employee vs. Independent Contractor

Employee:		Independent Contractor:	
•	Does not control how, when, or where he/she works	• Controls every aspect of how, when, and where the work will be done	
•	Day-to-day work is important to the business	• Not important for daily company workflow	
•	Uses company resources	• Uses own resources to get job completed	
•	Employee receives a Form W-2 from employer	• An independent contractor receives Form 1099 for services rendered	
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Employee vs. Independent Contractor Examples

Employee	Independent Contractor
Dance instructors working in a health club, where the club sets hours of work, the routines to be taught and pays the instructors from fees collected by the club are examples of employees.	Dance instructors, who select their own dance routines to teach, locate and rent their own facilities, provide their own sound systems, music and clothing, collect fees directly from customers, and are free to hire assistants are examples of independent contractors.
A repairperson working in a shop where the shop owner sets the prices, the hours and days the shop is open, and the repairperson is paid an hourly wage for the work done.	A repairperson who owns or rents a shop, advertises the services to the public, furnishes all of the tools, equipment, and supplies necessary to make repairs.
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Federal and State Withholding Exemption Taxes





Federal Form W-4

- Each employee must complete Form W-4 (Employee's Withholding Certificate) for Federal withholding.
- Employers must retain a copy of the W-4s for a minimum of 4 years after the date the last tax return was submitted using the information on the W-4s.
- See IRS Publication 15, *Employer's Tax Guide*, at https://www.irs.gov/ for instructions.





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Federal Form W-4 | Figure | F

Alabama Form A4

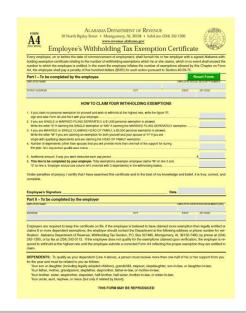
- Each employee must complete Form A4. (Form W-4 for Federal withholding cannot be substituted.)
- Employer must withhold using zero exemptions, when Form A4 is not filed.
- Employers must retain a copy of the A4s for a minimum of 3 years after the date the last tax return was submitted using the information on the A4s..
- If an employee claims 8 or more exemptions, the employer sends a copy of the Form A4 to ADOR's Withholding Tax Section.

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Form A4 – Employee Withholding Tax Exemption Certificate





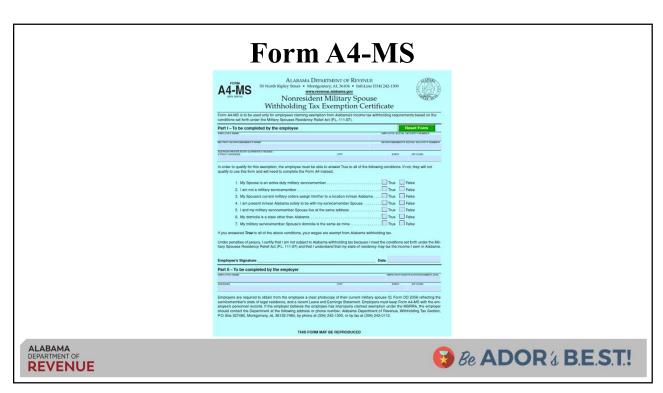
Nonresident Military Spouse Withholding Tax Exemption (Form A4-MS)

- Public Law 111-97: Military Spouses Residency Relief Act provides that spousal income **is not** subject to Alabama withholding **if** the spouse is in the jurisdiction solely to be with the service member serving in compliance with military orders.
- To qualify for the tax exemption, the answer to all 7 conditions on the A4-MS MUST be TRUE.





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How to Report Federal Withholding and Related Forms

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Federal Withholding

- Withheld from employee's paycheck
- Amount withheld is based on employee's W-4
- Usually paid by making deposits through EFT (EFTPS.gov)
- File Form 941 quarterly
- See IRS Publication 15 at https://www.irs.gov/ for instructions.



Form W-2 vs. Form 1099

- Businesses that have employees file the Form W-2
- Businesses that use independent contractors must file Form 1099-NEC
- Business that have both employees and independent contractors must file Form W-2 and Form 1099-NEC





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Form W-2 –Wage and Tax Statement

Every employer engaged in a trade or business, who pays remuneration, including noncash payments of \$600 or more for the year for services performed by an employee, must file a Form W-2 for each employee (even if the employee is related to the employer) from whom:

- Income, Social Security, or Medicare tax was withheld.
- Income tax would have been withheld if the employee had claimed no more than one withholding allowance or had not claimed exemption from withholding on Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate.



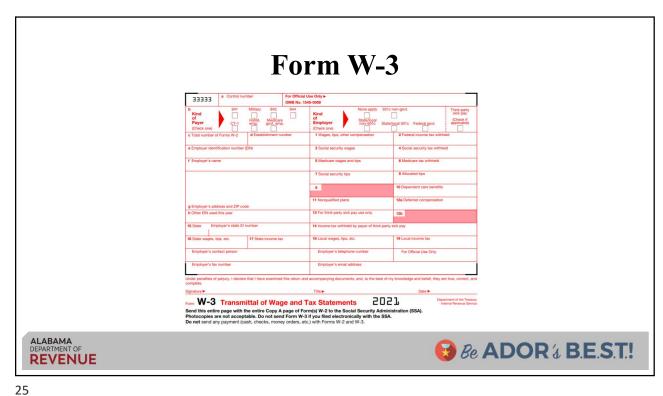


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W-3 Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements

- Anyone required to file Form W-2 must file Form W-3 to transmit Copy A of Forms W-2.
- A copy of Form W-3 along with copy D of Form W-2 must be kept for a minimum of 4 years.
- W-3 along with the W-2s must be filed with Social Security Administration by January 31st.





Form 1099-NEC

Federal Form 1099-NEC (Non-Employee Compensation) is used to report amounts paid to non-employees such as independent contractors and other businesses to whom payments are made.

Specific instructions for filing Form 1099-NEC (Non-Employee Compensation) for each person to whom you have paid at least \$600 during the previous year for:

- Services performed by someone who is not your employee (including parts and materials).
- Payments to an attorney.

Instructions for filing Form 1099-NEC are available on the IRS website, https://www.irs.gov/.





PAYER'S name, street ac or foreign postal code, ar	ddress, city or town, state or province, country, Z	RECTED	OMB No. 1545-0116	
	•		2021	Nonemployee Compensation
			Form 1099-NEC	
PAYER'S TIN	RECIPIENT'S TIN	1 Nonemployee compe	nsation	Copy
RECIPIENT'S name		2 Payer made direct sa consumer products t	ales totaling \$5,000 or more of to recipient for resale	For State Tax
		3		
Street address (including apt. no.) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code				
		4 Federal income tax v	vithheld	
Oity of town, state or pro	vince, country, and zir or loreign postal code	5 State tax withheld	6 State/Payer's state no.	7 State income
Account number (see ins	tructions)	\$		\$
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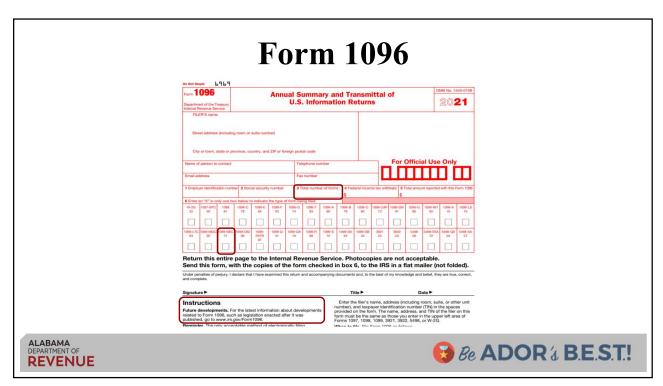
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Form 1096 – Annual Summary and Transmittal of U.S. Information Returns

- Form 1096 is a summary form used to transmit <u>paper</u> Form 1099s (and other informational returns).
- This form is provided for informational purposes only; it is not a tax form.
- Must mark in Section 6 only one box indicating type of form being filed. Do not mark multiple boxes.
- Form 1096 filed with Form 1099-NEC must be filed by January 31st.







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Internal Revenue Service

• www.irs.gov/

• IRS Forms: 1-800-829-3676

• IRS Assistance: 1-800-829-1040

• FEIN: Submit Federal Form SS4 by mail or fax or go to www.irs.gov/ and search for EIN online



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How to Report State Withholding and Related Forms





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State Withholding Tax Forms

Form	Filing Frequency	Due Date	Additional Information
A-6	Monthlyif employer withholds more than \$1,000 in the 1st or 2nd month of the quarter	On or before the 15 th of the month following the end of the month being filed (e.g., Form A-6 for the month of January is due on or before February 15 th)	 First Return – New employers must apply for withholding tax account on My Alabama Taxes Final Return – When an employer ceases to withhold Alabama Income Tax, place a "X" on Line 1 of A-6 form.
A-1	Quarterlyif employer withholds less than \$1,000 a month	On or before the last day of the month following the end of the quarter being filed (e.g., Quarter ending March 31st is due on or before April 30th)	
A-3	Annually	Due on or before January 31 st	 W-2s must be filed with A-3 Filing must include Federal 1099 or 1096 Must file electronically <i>if</i> returns & payments were filed & paid electronically Must file electronically if the A-3 includes 25 or more W-2s or 1099s
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Filing State Withholding on MAT

- Register for a withholding account at My Alabama Taxes (MAT) at https://myalabamataxes.alabama.gov/ /.
- Once you have been issued an account number, a sign on ID and an access code, return to MAT to register.
- Once registered, logon to MAT to file state withholding taxes.





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Form A-3 — Alabama Annual Reconciliation of Alabama Income Tax Withheld

Employers must submit copies of Form W-2 to the Department using the Alabama Reconciliation Form A-3



FORM A-3 STATE OF ALABAMA ANNUAL RECONCILITATION OF ALABAMA NOODE TAX WITHHELD ANNUAL PROJECTION OF ALABAMA NOODE TAX WITHHELD ANDUAL PROJECTION OF ALABAMA NOODE TAX WITHHELD ANDUAL

How to File State 1099s

• 1099s with no Alabama income tax withheld are filed using copies the Federal 1099s along with a copy of the Federal 1096 Annual Summary and Transmittal of U.S. Information Return. They are due by March 15th and should be mailed to:

Alabama Department of Revenue P.O. Box 327489 Montgomery, AL 36132-7489

• 1099s with Alabama income tax withheld are reported on Form A-3 along with any W-2s.





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Other Payroll-Related Taxes





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Other Payroll-Related Taxes Not Administered by ALDOR

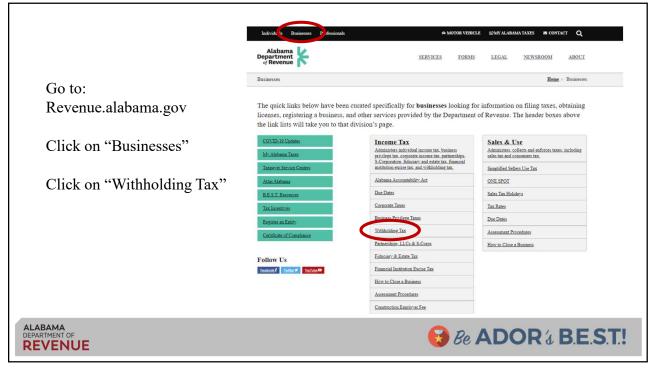
<u>FEDERAL</u>	<u>STATE</u>	MUNICIPALITY / COUNTY
See IRS Publication 15 at www.irs.gov	See labor.alabama.gov	See www.AtlasAlabama.gov for local government websites
Form W-9 (Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification) I-9 (Employment Eligibility Verification)	Unemployment Tax	Occupational Taxes
Federal Unemployment Taxes (FUTA)	State Unemployment Insurance	
Social Security and Medicare Taxes	Unemployment Compensation Reports	

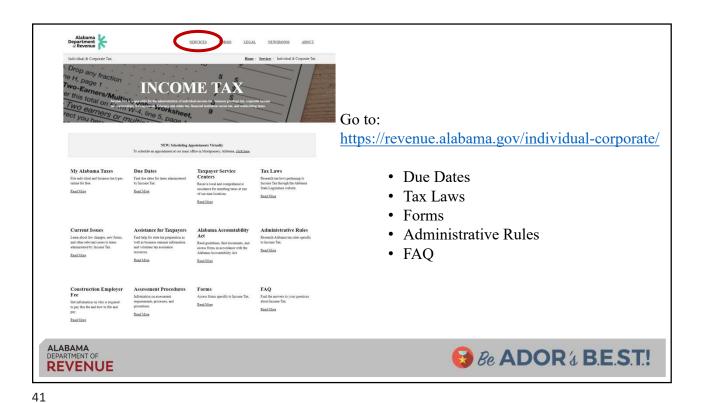


Helpful Links on ALDOR's Website

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SERVICES FORMS ABOUT Go to: Revenue.alabama.gov. Access forms, form instructions, and worksheets for each tax division below. The list is currently sorted first by division and then by category. You may search for a specific form by typing in the search bar, or sort the list by clicking on any of the column headers. You may filter by division, category, and year using the dropdown menus at the bottom of the forms table. Click on "FORMS". All forms will download as a PDF. Please refer to the list of mailing addresses for the appropriate forms. For income tax form orders, please use this contact form Type the form name in A4-MS Withholding 2019 the Search bar. Withholding 2016 <u>A4</u> Withholding 2014 Form IT:FA4 Previous 1 Next Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries (filtered from 1,463 total entries) ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF 8e ADOR & B.E.S.T.! REVENUE

Taxpayer Service Centers

The Alabama Department of Revenue has nine Taxpayer Service Centers located throughout the State to assist you. Contact information for the Service Centers can be found at:

https://revenue.alabama.gov/taxpayer-service-centers/

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Alabama Department of Revenue Contact Numbers

• (334) 242-1170 Option #1 Individual Income Tax • (334) 242-1170 Option #7 Withholding Tax • (334) 242-1170 Option #6 Corporate Tax • (334) 242-1170 Option #8 **Business Privilege Tax** • (334) 242-1170 Option #6 Pass-Through Entity • (334) 242-1189 Certificate of Compliance • (334) 242-1584 **Business Registration** • (334) 242-1490 Sales and Use Tax



Thank you for being ADOR's B.E.S.T.!

B.E.S.T. Webinar presentations can be found at

https://revenue.alabama.gov/taxpayer-advocacy/b-e-s-t-seminars/b-e-s-t-webinar-schedule/

Also available are B.E.S.T. Learning Modules at

https://revenue.alabama.gov/taxpayer-advocacy/b-e-s-t-seminars/watch-modules-online/





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Questions?

Please use the Q&A feature in Webex to ask the presenter questions.

